



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Adress: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/593,595	09/21/2006	Bjoern Haase	3776	1470
7590	08/07/2008		EXAMINER	
STRIKER, STRIKER & STENBY 103 EAST NECK ROAD HUNTINGTON, NY 11743			AL SOMIRI, ISAM A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3662	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/07/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/593,595	Applicant(s) HAASE ET AL.
	Examiner Isam Alsomiri	Art Unit 3662

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/165/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 092106
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 9, and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b and e) as being anticipated by Burlingham et al US 2006/0201006 or Born et al GB2052021A.

Referring to claim 1, Burlingham discloses in figures 1 and 2 a device (10) for optical distance measurement, in particular a device functioning in accordance with the phase measurement principle [see paragraph 0019], having at least one transmission unit (32) equipped with at least one light source for transmitting modulated optical measurement radiation toward a target object, and having a reception unit (26) for receiving the optical measurement radiation returning from the target object, wherein the device has means that enable a measurement of distances between the device and a target object by means of a triangulation method [0018-19]. Born teaches a similar optical proximity sensor to determine the distance to the target using phase measurement principle or triangulation principal (see Abstract)

Referring to claim 2, the means include the light source of the transmission unit.

Referring to claim 3, the means include at least one position-sensitive sensor.

Referring to claim 6, wherein the position-sensitive sensor also has the capacity to be used for time delay measurement of the modulated measurement signal in particular for a phase measurement of the returning measurement signal [see Burlingham 0019]

Referring to claim 7, wherein the means include at least one set of projection optics (see Burlingham figure 1).

Referring to claim 9, Burlingham further discloses at least one control and evaluation unit (20) for determining a distance of the device from the target object based on the phase shift of the optical measurement radiation returning from the target object [0019].

Referring to claim 11, Burlingham discloses in figures 1 and 2 a method for optical distance measurement in which it is possible to switch back and forth (based on user input (18)) between a phase measurement method for determining a distance of a distance measuring device from a target object [0019] and a triangulation method for determining this distance (additional step using the azimuth and position data (24) [0018-0020]

Referring to claims 12 and 13, same light source (32) is used for the phase measurement method and the triangulation method.

Referring to claim 14, the same detector element (26) is used for the phase measurement method and the triangulation method.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 5, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burlingham et al or Born et al.

Referring to claim 4 and 5, Burlingham and Born are silent about the type of detector used in their rangefinders. However, using a planar detector or a linear detector is very well known. It would have been obvious if not already inherent in Burlingham or Born to use a planar or linear detector based on the object and the desired detection.

Referring to claim 8, having a circular aperture is well known in many rangefinder system. It would have been obvious to modify Burlingham or Born to further include the circular aperture for more focused detection and direction.

Referring to claim 10, Burlingham and Born do not disclose a mechanical, slidable measurement stop. However, such mechanical device is well known in certain type of devices where the measurement is limited to move in a defined area. It would have been obvious to include the mechanical slidable stop device depending on the purpose and the use of the rangefinder.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isam Alsomiri whose telephone number is 571-272-6970. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Tarcza can be reached on 571-272-6979. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

August 3, 2008

/Isam Alsomiri/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3662